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INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

Top Secret

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21 January 1967

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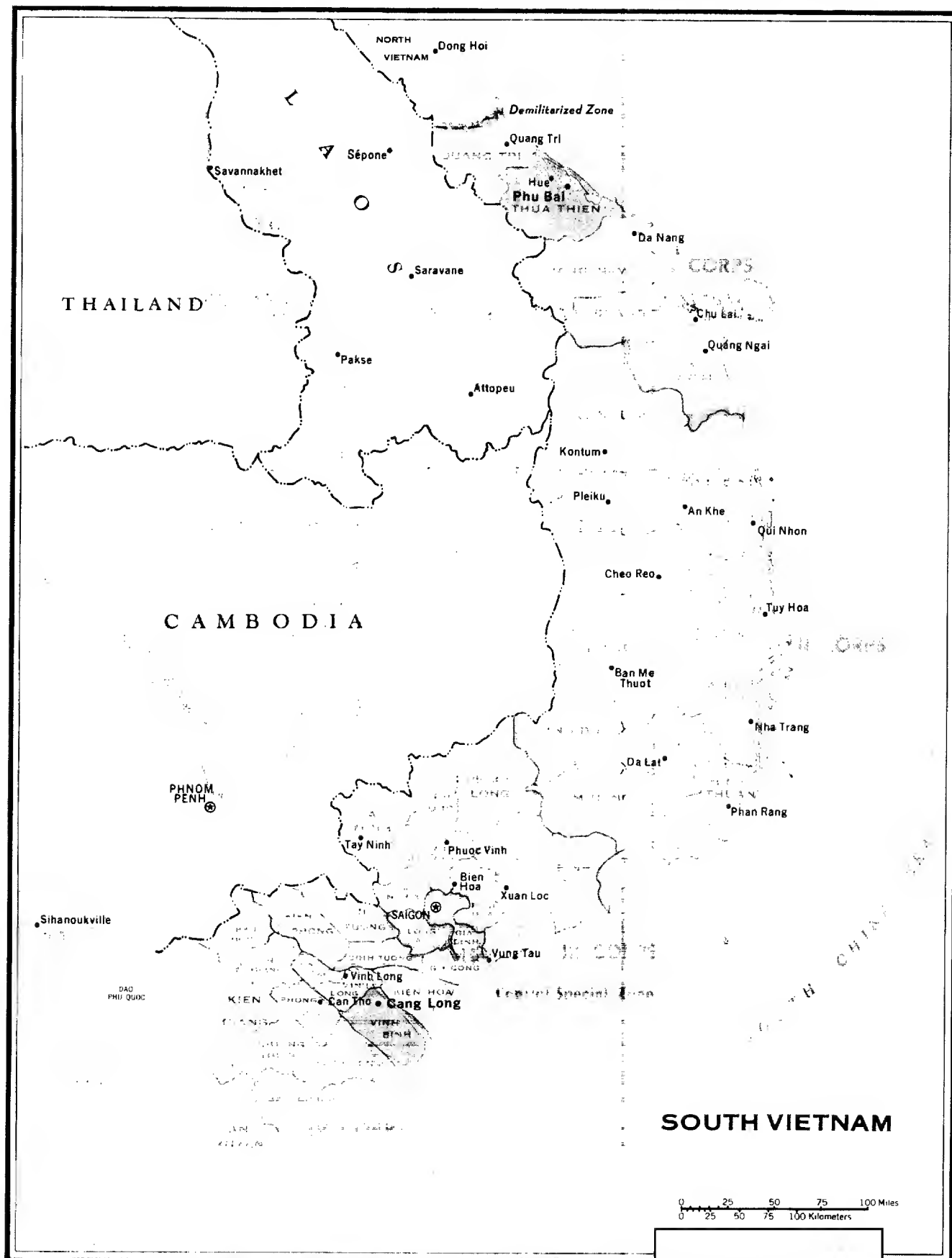
Vietnam: Current situation report. (Page 1)

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Communist China - Macao: Compromise rejected

Chile: Frei's next move

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: No major enemy contact has been reported during the past 24 hours by any of the 31 battalion-sized or larger allied/South Vietnamese search-and-destroy operations currently in progress.

Viet Cong - initiated military activity on 20 January was highlighted by simultaneous attacks in the delta province of Vinh Binh against the district town of Cang Long and the nearby field position of an ARVN battalion. Twenty-eight government troops were killed and 71 wounded, as against known enemy losses of 15 killed. Reaction troops subsequently dispatched to the scene have thus far failed to reestablish contact with the attackers.

Additional information on the pre-dawn Communist mortar attack of 20 January on a US Marine communications installation at Phu Bai, in northern Thua Thien Province, places final allied casualties at one US killed and 35 US and one ROK wounded. The 30-35 rounds of 82-mm. mortar fire which struck the base caused no major damage to equipment or facilities.

Political Developments in South Vietnam: The Constituent Assembly has begun its plenary debate of the draft constitution.

On 19 January, the assembly approved the first three articles contained in the first chapter of the constitution entitled "Basic Provisions." These include statements on Vietnamese sovereignty, guarantees of the basic rights and equality of all citizens, and the delineation of executive, legislative, and judicial responsibilities.



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NOTES

Communist China - Macao: Peking, rejecting the latest Portuguese compromise draft accepting responsibility for the riots in Macao last December, has renewed pressure on the colony. Chinese gunboats have apparently returned to their stations off Macao and leftists in the colony have threatened harassments and a protest rally. Lisbon may continue to try to substitute less offensive language, but there is no indication Peking is prepared to reduce its demands for a full and abject apology.

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Chile: Foreign Minister Valdes has denied press reports that President Frei has definitely canceled his US trip. The President apparently hopes to find some way of outmaneuvering the Senate opposition. His proposed constitutional reform to permit dissolution of Congress and new elections received support yesterday from Communist Senator Volodia Teitelboim, who presumably believes the government would lose ground in a new election. Backing from the Communists and Socialists would assure passage of the bill.

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